

**USFK REGULATION 700-17**

**LOGISTICS (700)**

# **Use of Herbicides in Korea**

**07 May 1987**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

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UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96301-0010

\*USFK Reg 700-17

USFK Regulation  
No. 700-17

7 May 1987

## Logistics USE OF HERBICIDES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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**SUPPLEMENTATION.** Issue of further supplements to this regulation by subordinate commands is prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from HQ USFK, ATTN: EAFE-E, APO SF 96301-0082.

**INTERIM CHANGES.** Interim changes to this regulation are not official unless they are authenticated by the Adjutant General. Users will destroy interim changes on their expiration dates unless sooner superseded or rescinded.

**INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS.** This regulation is not subject to the requirements of AR 11-2. It does not contain internal control provisions.

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1. **PURPOSE.** This regulation establishes policies and prescribes procedures for the control of herbicides used by USFK.

2. **APPLICABILITY.** This regulation is applicable to all component commands of USFK.

3. **IMPACT ON NEW MANNING SYSTEM.** This regulation does not contain information that affects the New Manning System.

4. **REFERENCES.**

a. DOD Directive 4150.7 (DOD Pest Management Program) is a required publication. Cited in paragraph 10e.

b. Related publications are listed below.

- (1) AFR 91-21 (Pest Management Program).
- (2) AFR 91-22/AR 40-574 (Aerial Dispersal of Pesticides).
- (3) AR 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement).
- (4) AR 385-32 (Protective Clothing and Equipment)
- (5) AR 420-74 (Natural Resources--Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management).
- (6) AR 420-76 (Pest Management).
- (7) TM 5-629/NAVFAC MO-314/AFM 91-19 (Herbicide Manual).

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\*This regulation supersedes USFK Reg 700-17, 12 March 1984

**5. EXPLANATION OF TERMS.** A herbicide is defined as a chemical compound that will kill or damage plants.

a. Based on physiological action, herbicides are grouped and described as--

(1) Contact herbicide. A herbicide that kills or inhibits plant growth primarily by contact with plant tissues.

(2) Plant growth regulator. A herbicide that kills or inhibits growth (depending on concentration) as a result of translocation of the herbicide chemical primarily through the root system to the plant cells (referred to also as "plant hormones").

(3) Defoliant. A herbicide that will cause a plant to prematurely shed its leaves.

(4) Desiccant. A herbicide that will cause the foliage of a plant to dry up.

b. Based on use, herbicides are grouped and described as--

(1) Selective or specific herbicide. A herbicide that in effective concentration will kill, damage, defoliate, desiccate, or inhibit the growth of some types of plants without significantly affecting other types of plants.

(2) Soil sterilants. A nonspecific herbicide that renders soil incapable of supporting plant growth.

**6. RESPONSIBILITIES.** Component commanders are responsible for the implementation of this regulation.

**7. HANDLING AND APPLICATION.** The dangers associated with the handling and application of herbicides demand establishment of strict controls for their use since nearly all herbicides are potentially dangerous. Injury to personnel or unnecessary damage to desirable vegetation and local crops adjacent to military installations can be prevented if herbicides are used properly and if recommended precautions are observed. Claims or adverse publicity resulting from the use of herbicides in the Republic of Korea negate the advantages of herbicides versus conventional brush and weed removal procedures.

**8. POTENTIAL HAZARDS.** A knowledge and appreciation of the factors that influence results in the use of herbicides are essential to the best control. The potential hazards that require special consideration in the use of herbicides are--

a. Poisoning of personnel. This hazard applies to persons who while mixing and applying the spray or spreading the dry product can be poisoned from swallowing the herbicides, from skin absorption, or from inhalation.

b. Inadvertent misuse. Security and control of herbicides are essential to prevent inadvertent use or misuse by persons not knowledgeable of the effects.

c. Drift hazards. These are greatest when herbicides that affect leaves of plants are used. Plants more than a mile downwind from the sprayed area may be affected.

d. Leaching. A process by which the herbicide is dissolved and diffused into the ground. If chemicals are readily absorbed by roots, plants whose roots extend under the treated area are likely to be injured.

e. Washing. A significant hazard on slopes, bare ground, and pavements. The herbicides may be carried by surface runoff to valuable plants downslope or contaminate streams or other bodies of water to the detriment of crops, fish, or other aquatic life.

#### **9. STORAGE, ISSUE, AND HANDLING.**

a. Request to procure or dispose of herbicides will be submitted to HQ USFK, ATTN: EAFE-E, APO SF 96301-0082.

b. Herbicides will be securely stored, and issues will be rigidly controlled. Disposal of herbicides will be accomplished only as directed by this headquarters. Sale or issue of herbicides to non-US Government activities or to non-DOD activities within the Republic of Korea is specifically prohibited without the approval of this headquarters.

c. Adequate individual safety precautions will be emphasized, and necessary protective devices shall be provided for all persons engaged in handling herbicides.

d. Records will be maintained in sufficient detail to provide the necessary information to permit evaluation of claims that may rise against the US Government.

**10. POLICIES.** Herbicides will not be used in the Republic of Korea except where plant growth control cannot be accomplished effectively by other means, and safe and controlled application of herbicides is ensured. Additionally, the following specific constraints apply to the use of herbicides in the Republic of Korea:

a. Herbicides will not be dispersed by aerial spraying.

b. To ensure that herbicide application will not impact land not under USFK control, herbicides will not be used by US Forces outside compounds controlled by US Forces except on areas approved in writing by HQ USFK and the Republic of Korea Government authority concerned. Request for exception will be submitted to HQ USFK, ATTN: EAFE-E, with maps and other data in sufficient detail for review.

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c. Herbicides will not be applied in the demilitarized zone or south of the southern boundary when there is any possibility that drift of spray or runoff may carry any trace of the herbicides into the demilitarized zone.

d. Herbicide Agent ORANGE and any herbicide or other agricultural material containing the herbicide formulation 2-4-5 T or dinoseb will not be used in the Republic of Korea.

e. Herbicides shall be applied only under the direct supervision of certified personnel in accordance with DOD Directive 4150.7, paragraph F.

f. Initiate safety procedures for flushing and cleanup of dispensing equipment after the application of herbicides to prevent contamination of water used for irrigation purposes or water supplies used for consumption by domestic animals, wildlife, or aquatic life.

g. Additional specific precautions established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for the specific herbicide being used will be followed. Excess herbicides or contaminated containers will be disposed of in accordance with label directions.

h. Herbicides will not be applied in areas within a radius of 200 feet from any known underground well or surface water source.

The proponent of this regulation is the US Army Facilities Engineer Activity, Korea. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to the Commander, USFK, ATTN: EAFE-E, APO SF 96301-0082.

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